

FEDERAL ENERGY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Federal Fleet Success Stories

Getting to "GREEN" Using a Team Approach

The U.S. Department of Treasury becomes the first agency to receive "Green" on all three categories of the OMB scorecard.



Treasury Department Gets to Green

The U.S. Department of Treasury and its bureaus have accomplished what no other Federal agency has been able to do. It has achieved the prestigious status of "GREEN" on the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) scorecard in all three categories: Energy, Environment, and Transportation.

OMB Scorecard Rating

The OMB scorecard rates major agencies and departments in three areas: energy management, transportation management, and environmental stewardship. OMB uses a "stoplight" model to assess each agency's status and progress. Receiving a "green" status indicates that the agency has met all standards for success. "Yellow" is an intermediate level indicator, and "red" means that the agency did not meet a minimum performance requirement in at least one area of the scorecard.

Progress scores are based on specific milestones that the agencies set out in consultation with the Department of Energy (DOE), and then with OMB. The red, yellow, and green scores reflect how well the agencies did in meeting those milestones on a six-month cycle.

A Team Approach

So, how did Treasury achieve their green rating? Resourceful and committed leadership lies at the heart of the success. Leadership alone, however, was not enough. They had to build an agency-wide "community of practice" to bring about a cultural change.

In building this community of practice, Treasury established a structured Fleet Managers Council. This dedicated group of fleet representatives is responsible for carrying the energy-saving message to the ranks of the individual bureaus. The Council meets quarterly to discuss their progress and strategies needed to accomplish their mission-critical goals.



OMB SCORECARD RATING SYSTEM

Using a stoplight scoring system, the OMB scorecards for Energy, Transportation, and Environmental Management track how well Federal agencies are executing government-wide management initiatives.

-  A green score indicates full success
-  A yellow score indicates substantial success
-  A red score indicates that insufficient success has been achieved



For Earth Day 2008 and 2009, the U.S. Department of Treasury Fleet Managers Council received an award for their achievements in getting to green.



Unique Challenges

Legislative mandates require that 75 percent of all covered vehicle acquisitions need to be alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs), such as E85 flex-fuel vehicles (FFVs). In meeting their fleet requirements, the Department of Treasury fleet faced several unique challenges.

For example, E85 FFVs are not currently available in all sizes and configurations. Specifically, there is limited availability of 4-cylinder flex-fuel vehicles, which is the mission-appropriate size vehicle that the Treasury fleet needs.

The Treasury opted to acquire and deploy the larger FFVs as opposed to the smaller, gasoline only powered vehicles only in locations where E85 is available. Using this strategy, Treasury was still able to exceed the 75 percent requirement in fiscal year (FY) 2008, maintaining compliance with a 91 percent acquisition rate for AFVs. Remarkably, the Treasury's law enforcement activities have also exercised the same commitment to acquiring AFVs, even though these vehicles are not covered by the AFV acquisition requirements. The law enforcement fleet currently comprises 87 percent of the Treasury fleet.

Another challenge was increasing their alternative fuel use. Federal fleets must increase their use of alternative fuel by 10 percent each year, using FY 2005 as a baseline. Unlike many other agencies, the Treasury fleet is totally dependent on retail facilities for refueling, and fuel stations offering E85 are still relatively scarce.

In order to combat this hurdle, the Treasury used its team approach to encourage its bureaus to make maximum use of available retail E85 fuel stations. They even advocated that operators drive a bit farther than the 5 miles/15 minutes stated in law to refuel with E85.

A New Directive

Treasury officials are not satisfied with simply resting on their laurels. They recently drafted a new agency directive



that emphasizes the alternative fuel requirements in Executive Order 13423, the Energy Policy Acts of 1992 and 2005, and the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. Once signed, this new directive will carry the same weight as Departmental Policy.

The directive outlines how Treasury will meet Federal regulations, and assigns responsibilities within the organization for oversight and accomplishment.

A Clear Record of Success

As a result of actions taken by fleet managers across the Department, Treasury improved their performance in FY 2008 as follows:

- Non-exempt petroleum use declined by 48 percent compared to the FY 2005 baseline;
- Alternative fuel use increased by 108 percent compared to the FY 2005 baseline;
- Total miles driven declined by 3.1 percent from FY 2007; and
- Fleet size declined by 162 vehicles, or 4 percent from FY 2007.

The multiple strategies put into action by the Fleet Managers Council produced significant results.

A Look Ahead

Treasury serves as a model for how the fleet community within a department can function. The Department already has its sights set on a third consecutive green scorecard. In looking toward the future, Steve Sosson, Fleet Program Manager for the Treasury, says, "If you are willing to make the effort, and be imaginative, there are ways to get things done. We have to look at all of our options. Instead of asking why this can't be done, we need to get into the habit of asking, 'How can we get this done?'"



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